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THE CASE OF Mr. LOWNDES's SALT.

IN the Year 1746, *T. Lowndes*, Eſq; preſented a Petition to the Honourable Houſe of Commons, ſetting forth, That *Great Britain* and *Ireland* are able to ſupply their Inhabitants with all the Neceſſaries of Life, good SALT only excepted; but are forced to apply to foreign Nations for that Commodity: That authentic Vouchers will prove we purchaſe about 30,000 Tons of SALT yearly: That the Petitioner had, with great Expence of Time and Money, improved the BRINE SALT of this Kingdom, ſo as to make it equal, if not excel the beſt *French* BAY SALT: That Specimens of this SALT had been laid before the College of Phyſicians, and approved of by that learned Body.

That he propoſed to make known his Method of making SALT, on Condition that, in Caſe his SALT ſhould upon Trial be found to equal or excel *French* BAY SALT for domeſtic Uſes, he ſhould receive a Reward of 1000 *l.* if for curing Beef and Pork for the Navy, 2000 *l.* and if for curing *Newfoundland* Fiſh, 4000 *l.* All which Rewards he diſclaimed, except he could make it appear his SALT may be afforded for Six-pence a Buſhel, at the uſual Places of making SALT.

Mr. *Lowndes* allowed for Trial, in domeſtic Uſes, ſix Months; in Beef and Pork for the Navy, two Years; in *Newfoundland* Fiſh, twelve Months: And, in order to make the ſeveral Trials, propoſed to go down into *Cheſhire* and make, or cauſe to be made, what Quantity of SALT ſhould be thought proper.

June the 3d, 1748, the Honourable Houſe of Commons came to the following Reſolutions:

Reſolved, That improving the BRINE SALT of this Kingdom would be a great Advantage to the Trade and Navigation of this Country.

Reſolved, That Mr. *Lowndes*'s Propoſal for diſcovering his Method of making BRINE SALT is reaſonable.

Reſolved, That an Addreſs be preſented to his Majeſty, to deſire that he will be graciouſly pleaſed to authoriſe and direct the Lords of the Admiralty, or the Lord Admiral for the Time being, to enter into an Agreement with Mr. *Lowndes*, purſuant to the ſaid Propoſal; and to cauſe the ſeveral Trials to be made of the SALT; and that his Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to order ſuch Sums of Money to be paid Mr. *Lowndes*, upon the Certificate of the Lords of the Admiralty, or the Lord High Admiral, as ſhall be mentioned in the ſaid Certificate; and to aſſure his Majeſty the Houſe will make the ſame good.

In Conſequence of this Vote of the Honourable Houſe of Commons, Mr. *Lowndes* communicated his Method of making BRINE SALT to the Public, in a printed Pamphlet, with this Title, *Brine Salt improved*, &c. And, ſome Time after, printed another Pamphlet, with the following Title: *A Seaſonable Hint for our Pilchard and Coaſt Fiſhery: Or a Letter of Advice to the Brine Salt Proprietors of* Great Britain *and* Ireland, *dated* 23 April, 1748.

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In this Letter he aſſerts, that he had many Months ago performed on his Part the Agreement between the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty and himſelf, which their Lordſhips entered into, by Order of his Majeſty, in Purſuance of an Addreſs of the Honourable Houſe of Commons of the laſt Parliament. That the SALT, which he had made in the moſt public Manner, at *Northwich* and *Middlewich*, in *Cheſhire*, according to his printed Proceſs, would preſerve Beef and Swines-fleſh above four Years, and Fiſh as long as the different Kinds of that Commodity will permit. He then gives them many uſeful Directions, proper to be obſerved in making SALT for different Uſes; congratulates his Country, that ſhe hath within herſelf a better SALT than *France* can ſell her; and, in an Appendix, produces ſeveral Experiments and Certificates, by which he proves his SALT may be made for Six-pence *per* Buſhel.

Some Time in the Month of *May*, the ſame Year 1748, Mr. *Lowndes* deceaſed, before all the Trials propoſed by him had been made; this Accident put a Stop to the Making his BRINE SALT for ſome Time: For, Mr. *Lowndes* having deviſed all the Rewards which ſhould become due to him for diſcloſing his Invention, after Payment of his Debts, to charitable and public Uſes, no Perſon thought himſelf ſo much intereſted in the Succeſs thereof, as to be induced to proſecute the Affair with a proper Vigour: So that, though a certain Perſon did offer to make any Quantity that ſhould be demanded of Mr. *Lowndes*'s SALT at Six-pence *per* Buſhel, upon the Aſſertions of other Perſons that it could not be made at ſo low a Price, in the Year 1750, the following Entry was made in the Books of the Admiralty:

June 5, 1750. Preſent { Lord *Sandwich*, Lord *Anſon*, Lord *Barrington*, Mr. *Ellis*, Mr. *Villars*.

'The Reports of the Commiſſioners of the *Victualling-office*, and the Attorney-General's Opinion on the State of the Caſe being read, are of Opinion, That Mr. *Lowndes*'s SALT equals or excels *French* BAY SALT, for domeſtic Uſes, and for Beef and Pork for the Navy; but, with Regard to *Newfoundland* Fiſh, it does not appear that ſufficient Experiments have been made to form any Judgment thereof; and agree in Opinion with the Attorney-General, that there is not ſufficient Evidence of the Truth of the Fact, that the Makers may ſell and deliver, at the uſual Places in *Cheſhire*, this new SALT at Six-pence a Buſhel: Wherefore the Lords do not think themſelves authoriſed, upon the preſent Proof, to grant the Certificates ſtipulated in the Agreement with Mr. *Lowndes*.'

Since that Time, large Quantities of this SALT have been made by Perſons who had no Connection with Mr. *Lowndes*; and, from the Year 1754 to the preſent Year, the *Victualling-office* have made Uſe of above 40,000 Buſhels of the ſame, and would have contracted for more, if they had not been ſupplied with a Quantity of foreign BAY SALT, out of *French* Ships taken by our Men of War and Privateers.

Mr. *Lowndes*, in his *Seaſonable Hint*, Pages 22, 27, brings Vouchers to ſhew the Expence of making a Pan of SALT, in Coals and Workmens Wages, and the Produce of the ſame Pan; by which it manifeſtly appeared his SALT might then be made for Six-pence a Buſhel. Theſe Proofs of the Price of his SALT were given in the Year 1748: If at this Time Nobody will make it at that Price, it is no Impeachment of Mr. *Lowndes*'s Veracity: The Price of Proviſions of all Kinds, and conſequently of Workmens Wages, has of late Years been increaſed to a Degree that will eaſily account for the Difference in the Price of that Manufacture, as well as of many others.

That the Making BRINE SALT, after Mr. *Lowndes*'s Method, is of public Utility to the Nation is manifeſt, by the Entry in the Books of the Admiralty, and the Uſe made thereof in the *Victualling-office*: Since the Year 1754, all the Money paid for this SALT hath circulated at Home, which without this Invention muſt have gone Abroad for foreign SALT: How beneficial Mr. *Lowndes*'s SALT may be hereafter is not eaſy to ſay: It is probable it will come more and more into Uſe, as Experience ſhews it to be greatly ſuperior to foreign BAY SALT.

No Part of the Rewards ſtipulated hath been hitherto received by Mr. *Lowndes*, or his Repreſentatives, for the Diſcovery of his Method of meliorating BRINE SALT, though the Public avails itſelf of that Diſcovery: The only Reaſon alledged for withholding the Rewards is the Price being higher than was mentioned in Mr. *Lowndes*'s Propoſal; ſuppoſing, but not granting this to be true, it is humbly apprehended it will be thought equitable, that, though all the Rewards cannot be claimed by Mr. *Lowndes*'s Repreſentatives,

tatives, ſome Part thereof ſhould be given them, in Proportion to the Advantage the Public have hitherto reaped, and are hereafter like to reap, from this new-invented BRINE SALT.

Mr. *Lowndes*, by his laſt Will and Teſtament, deviſed all his real Eſtate, in *Cheſhire*, to the Univerſity of *Cambridge*, in Truſt that the clear Profits thereof ſhould be applied to the Maintenance of a Profeſſor, to be called *Lowndes*'s Aſtronomical and Geometrical Profeſſor: This Eſtate was then and ſtill continues to be encumbered with a Mortgage.

In the Year 1749, Dr. *Long*, Maſter of *Pembroke-Hall* in the Univerſity of *Cambridge*, was elected *Lowndes*'s Profeſſor; and, out of the firſt Money received by him, on account of his Profeſſorſhip, paid a conſiderable Sum, in Diſcharge of Arrears of Intereſt due upon a Mortgage upon Mr. *Lowndes*'s Eſtate, and hath ſince paid the Intereſt annually due, up to *Michaelmas* laſt paſt, amounting in the Whole to 400 *l.* and upwards; all which Money would have been ſaved to the ſaid Profeſſorſhip, if Mr. *Lowndes*, or his Repreſentatives, had received even a ſmall Part of the Rewards ſtipulated: For, by Mr. *Lowndes*'s Will, the Mortgage upon his Eſtate is to be paid off by the firſt Money received on account of his Contract with the Lords of the Admiralty.

So long as the Mortgage continues upon the Eſtate, Mr. *Lowndes*'s Profeſſors muſt ſuffer a conſiderable Diminution in the Salary he intended for their Maintenance: This Diminution is of ſo little Conſequence to the preſent Profeſſor, now far advanced in Years, that he would not have troubled the Honourable Houſe of Commons with a Petition on that Subject; but thinks himſelf obliged, in Regard to his Founder, and in Duty to that Univerſity of which he hath been conſtantly a Member upwards of 60 Years, to uſe his Endeavours that Mr. *Lowndes*'s Will may be carried into Execution, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof; and that the Chancellor, Maſters, and Scholars of the Univerſity of *Cambridge* may be put in full Poſſeſſion of the Eſtate deviſed to them, and have the Title-deeds of the ſame ſafely lodged among their Archives.

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